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### BIRDS' NESTS A DELICACY

Edible Dear to Chinese Constitutes an Important Part in the Export Trade of Siam.

An important item in the export trade of Siam consists of edible nests of swifts, or swiftlets, as they are also called. The principal markets for this trade are China, Hongkong and Singapore. In Hongkong, it is said, the demand often exceeds the supply, and prices range from \$15 to \$25 per pound, according to quality. The first nests constructed in the season, which are composed of pure saliva, are held superior for eating purposes. They are gathered on completion before the eggs are laid. The birds then build again, and the second nests, in which the saliva is mixed with rootlets, grass, etc., and often shows traces of blood, from the efforts made to produce saliva, are also taken on completion. A third nest is then constructed of extraneous substances cemented together and the whole fastened to the wall by a little saliva, the flow of which seems to be practically exhausted. The birds are allowed to rear their young in these nests, which are afterward destroyed by the nest gatherers, so as to compel the construction of fresh nests the following year. Edible nests of swiftlets are found in the Malay archipelago, Australia, and many of the Pacific islands. In northern Borneo certain caves inhabited by these swiftlets produce \$25,000 worth of nests every year and show no diminution in the quantity, despite systematic robbery for seven generations.

### FOUND PATIENT A PROBLEM

Authorities of New York Aquarium Will Admit That Sea Cow Was a Hard Proposition to Handle.

The big manatee or sea cow, which disports in a 20-foot tank for the education of visitors at the New York aquarium, has been troubled with a salt water rash which called for treatment by the fish doctors. That was easier said than done. The manatee weighs 900 pounds and is as strong as a horse and far more difficult to handle.

To scoop the sea cow out of the tank with a landing net and a derrick did not seem practical. To treat the big patient in the water was equally impossible. So they let all the water out of the tank and, while the manatee flopped helplessly at the bottom, the doctors went to work. The treatment was a success and the 12-foot exhibit is now as well as ever.

The sea cow was caught in the waters off Florida and brought to New York. It is a fastidious eater, showing a preference for eel-grass and lettuce leaves. It has no front teeth. Its strength lies in its beaverlike tail.—New York World.

### Primitive Christian Hymn Book.

A famous English scholar, Dr. Rendel Harris, has discovered a venerable Syriac version of "The Odes and Psalms of Solomon," a collection of ancient hymns that are almost as old as the books of the New Testament in their present form, and in part even older. In speaking of his discovery Doctor Harris said:

"In this little book, if my judgment is correct, we have for the first time recovered a book of hymns of the early Christian community, and these hymns are marked by all the characteristics that we associate with that great spiritual revival that marks the early Christian church. They give us a key to primitive Christian experience, just as the rediscovery of the Olney hymns, or a volume of early Methodist hymns, or Saint Bernard's Latin hymns—supposing any or all of these to be lost—would help us to understand what really went on at the Methodist revival in England, or in the great monastic revivals of the middle ages.

"The little book in its first form can scarcely be later than 150 A. D., and it may be earlier. It may be as early as the uncanonical but very valuable 'Teaching of the Apostles.' In any case, it brings us so close to the days and the spirit of the New Testament writings that when we read them, or sing them, we are in the aureole of the first and great confession.—Youth's Companion.

### Gold You Can See Through.

Gold, which becomes so important in war time, is an extremely interesting substance in many ways. It can be beaten so thin that 125,000 leaves of it piled on top of one another would only reach an inch in height. When beaten into the thinnest possible sheet it becomes transparent.

Gold, too, can be drawn into the finest wire of any metal. Michael Faraday, the great British chemist, once calculated that he could make a gold wire from four sovereigns long enough to go around the earth.

It is because gold can be beaten so thin that tobaccoists are able to use real gold for tipping cigarettes, and yet not charge an exorbitant price for them.

### Good Illustration.

The Bachelor (after the proposal)—But are you quite sure you believe in second love?

The Widow—Certainly, my dear. Now suppose a woman buys a pound of sugar; it is sweet, isn't it?

The Bachelor—Yes, of course. But—The Widow—Well, when that's gone she naturally wants another pound—and the second pound is just as sweet as the first, isn't it.

### COULD MAKE A GOOD GUESS

Young Man Was Not Sure as to Size, but Was Willing to Take a Chance on It.

Into a men's furnishing store stepped a young man warily, almost timidly. He lacked the air of confidence of the man who is about to purchase a tie or a handkerchief or a collar. Eagerly the genial floorwalker pounced upon him and the prospective customer's first words explained everything.

"Have you anything suitable for a young lady?" he asked, looking about dazedly at the rows of shirt boxes. "Something for her birthday, you know?"

"Well, I should say we have. Step right this way, please. Miss Apperson, will you show this gentleman some ladies' hose, or"—he added, as he noted the inquirer's pitiable confusion, "perhaps he would prefer to see some of those near-silk ladies' coat sweaters?"

He would, he certainly would, and when he found a man in charge at the sweater counter he became almost himself again. The sweater idea seemed to strike him favorably, and for several minutes he inspected color combinations and felt fabrics. Finally the clerk dropped him into hot water again.

"About what size does the young lady wear?"

It was a poser and entirely unexpected. The young man gazed at a dummy figure on which a sweater coat was displayed, then walked up to it, circled it with his arm, and nodded: "About this size, I think."

### BUG MAKES THE BEAN JUMP

When One Holds Seed Over Fire the Insect Is Impelled to Give a Dance.

It is a bug which puts the jump in the Mexican jumping bean. You are probably acquainted with the bean. Hold it over a fire until it is warmed a little and it will roll around and jump like a thing alive. And it is alive, too. A little plump, white insect is inside the shell of the bean, the larva of a moth called the carpopap.

The insect was hatched inside the bean from an egg which the moth planted there while the shell was still soft. About one-fifth of the interior of the shell is occupied by the larva, the rest by the bean.

To make a cozy home, the larva spins a silk thread and lines the hollow shell with it. Later in winter it cuts a tiny round door through the shell and strengthens it with silk, and about this time of year it forces its way out the door and flies away, for now it is a moth.

So it is the insect and not the bean that jumps. When you hold the bean over the fire it warms his feet and he dances for your entertainment.

### Phenomena of Sleep.

The myriad phenomena of sleep, of insomnia, of dreams, of somnambulism, of somniloquism (sleep walking and sleep talking) are inextricably interwoven, and from the beginning of human reason have been among the most fascinating of studies, though always baffling and evasive. In lieu of any clear definition of sleep physiologists say that it is induced by an increased absorption of oxygen, our inhaling gas, with an increase of the exhalation of carbon dioxide, the latter being the transformation from oxygen in the process of breathing. The physiological results are slower and more regular respiration, slower pulsation, lowered blood pressure, the glands of the skin more active and cessation of voluntary muscular activity.

### India's Love of Gold.

Complaints of India's appetite for gold began in the time of the Carthaginians, who in the fourth century B. C. disposed of gold they procured from Spain to that country. Pliny tells of unavailing protests made in the first year of the Christian era of exportations of the precious metal from the Roman empire, nearly \$15,000,000 of it being sent annually to India. Queen Elizabeth, in 1600, tried in vain to counteract the flow of gold from her country to India.

### CORRECT ENGLISH HOW TO USE IT

Josephine Turek Baker, Editor

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